



United States Attorney's Office
District of Columbia

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PRESS RELEASE

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DISTRICT TEENAGER SENTENCED IN SHOOTING OF PEPCO WORKER ***– Man shot while working to restore power to neighborhood–***

WASHINGTON - Marlo Johnson, 18, was sentenced today to eight years in prison on a charge stemming from the December 3, 2009 shooting of a PEPCO worker near Rhode Island Avenue and First Street NW, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced. Johnson was sentenced in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia by the Honorable Ronna L. Beck

Johnson, who was 17 at the time of the offense, was charged as an adult by the United States Attorney's Office. He pleaded guilty May 21, 2010 to a charge of aggravated assault while armed in connection with the shooting, in which the worker was shot in the back of his head.

According to the government's evidence, on December 3, 2009, at about 7:15 p.m., employees for the PEPCO utility company were working to restore power to homes and businesses in the 1900 block of First Street NW, which is Johnson's neighborhood. While walking down the street, Johnson made eye contact with one of the workers in the group, and stated "What are you looking at?" Without any provocation other than this mere eye contact, Johnson walked up to the worker, pushed him, and started to fight him. The worker wrestled Johnson to the ground, subduing him, but Johnson punched him in the face and ran away.

After Johnson left, the other PEPCO workers feared that he might return to further harm their co-worker. Accordingly, they had the co-worker sit inside their large PEPCO truck, parked on the street. True to their fears, minutes later, Johnson returned, armed with a .22 caliber pistol.

Johnson was angry, yelling at the workers, "Where's he at? Where's he at?" At this moment, another PEPCO worker – the victim – realized that the door to the PEPCO truck was open and that his co-worker was still visible inside. To protect his co-worker, the victim hurriedly walked over to close the door. As he was doing so, Johnson observed the victim's co-worker with whom he had been fighting, lifted his pistol, and fired one shot. Rather than striking his intended target, the bullet struck the victim as he was closing the door to protect his co-worker. The bullet struck the victim in the back of his head, settling beneath his skull.

Johnson fled the scene, while the victim bled profusely from the neck, screaming: “I don’t want to die. I don’t want to die.”

In announcing the sentence, U.S. Attorney Machen commended Detective Steve Manley of the Metropolitan Police Department’s Fifth District Criminal Investigation Division, the detective on the case who led the investigation, as well as MPD Officers Jonathan Jordan, John Wright, Douglas Hain, Duriel Barnes, and Dante Myles. Finally, U.S. Attorney Machen expressed his appreciation to paralegal Kalisha Johnson-Clark, who prepared the case for indictment, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Chris Kavanaugh, who investigated and indicted the case.

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